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Trump tax bill would widen deficits by \$2.8T after factoring in economic impacts, CBO says

By **FATIMA HUSSEIN** and **LISA MASCARO**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's tax and budget bill would increase deficits by \$2.8 trillion over the next decade after including other economic effects, according to a more fulsome analysis of the measure released Tuesday by the Congressional Budget Office.

The report, produced by the nonpartisan CBO and the Joint Committee on Taxation, factors in expected debt service costs and finds that the bill would increase interest rates and boost interest payments on the baseline projection of federal debt by \$441 billion. Tuesday's report uses dynamic analysis by estimating the budgetary impact of the tax bill by considering how changes in the economy might affect revenues and spending. This is in contrast to static scoring, which presumes



President Donald Trump speaks at a military parade commemorating the Army's 250th anniversary Saturday, June 14, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

all other economic factors stay constant. The CBO released its static scoring analysis earlier this month, estimating that Trump's bill would unleash trillions in tax cuts and slash spending, but also increase deficits by \$2.4 trillion over the de-

cade and leave some 10.9 million more people without health insurance. Marc Goldwein, senior vice president and senior policy director for the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, said Tuesday on social media that considering

the new dynamic analysis, "It's not only not paying for all of itself, it's not paying for any of itself." The analysis comes at a crucial moment as Trump is pushing Congress, where Republicans have majority control, to send the fi-

nal product to his desk to become law by the Fourth of July. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and other Republicans have sought to discredit the CBO, saying the organization isn't giving enough credit to the economic growth the bill will create. Republicans on the Senate Finance Committee unveiled a proposal Monday for deeper Medicaid cuts, including new work requirements for parents of teens, as a way to offset the costs of making Trump's tax breaks more permanent in draft legislation unveiled for his self-described big, beautiful bill. The first House proposal on the new Medicaid work requirement exempted parents with dependents. But the Senate's version broadened the requirement to include parents of children older than 14, as part of their effort to combat waste in the program and push personal responsibility. □

Padilla says in Senate 'it's time to wake up' after forced removal from Noem's event



U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla, D-Calif., is pushed out of the room as Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem holds a news conference regarding the recent protests in Los Angeles, Thursday, June 12, 2025.

Associated Press

By **MARY CLARE JALONICK** and **MICHAEL R. BLOOD**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Alex Padilla on Tuesday encouraged Americans to peacefully protest against President Donald Trump's administration and said it's "it's time to wake up" in his first extended remarks in the Senate since he was forcibly removed from Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem's press conference in Los Angeles last week as he tried to speak up about immigration raids. In emotional remarks on Tuesday, Padilla, a California Democrat, recounted the altercation, in which security forced him out of the room and onto the ground after he tried to ask Noem a question. Padilla said that even though he was accom-

panied by a National Guardsman and an FBI agent, "I was pushed and pulled, struggled to maintain my balance" and ended up flat on his chest on the floor. "I was handcuffed and marched down a hallway repeatedly asking, 'Why I am being detained?'" Padilla said as several of his colleagues from both major political parties sat in their chairs and listened. "Not once did they tell me why." He said he wondered in the moment if he was being arrested he wasn't and, if he was, what the city and his family would think. "What will a city already on edge from being militarized think when they see their U.S. senator being handcuffed for just trying to ask a question?" Padilla said. □

Senate is expected to pass a crypto bill without addressing Trump's investments

By **JOEY CAPPELLETTI,**
MARY CLARE JALONICK
and **ALAN SUDERMAN**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate is expected to approve legislation Tuesday that would regulate a form of cryptocurrency known as stablecoins, the first of what is expected to be a wave of crypto legislation from Congress that the industry hopes will bolster its legitimacy and reassure consumers.

The fast-moving legislation, which will be sent to the House for potential revisions, comes on the heels of a 2024 campaign cycle in which the crypto industry ranked among the top political spenders in the country, underscoring its growing influence in Washington and beyond.

Eighteen Democratic senators have shown support for the legislation as it has advanced, siding with the Republican majority in the 53-47 Senate. If passed, it would become the second major bipartisan bill to advance through the Senate this year, following the Laken Riley Act on immigration enforcement in January.

Still, most Democrats oppose the bill. They have raised concerns that the measure does little to address President Donald Trump's personal financial interests in the crypto space.

"We weren't able to include certainly everything we would have wanted, but it was a good bipartisan effort," said Sen. Angela Alsobrooks, D-Md., on Monday. Alsobrooks, a co-sponsor of the bill, added, "This is an unregulated area that will now be regulated."

Known as the GENIUS Act, the bill would establish guardrails and consumer protections for stablecoins, a type of cryptocurrency typically pegged to the U.S. dollar. The acronym stands for "Guiding and Establishing National Innovation for U.S. Stablecoins."

It's expected to pass Tues-



Brian Armstrong, left, Co-founder and CEO of Coinbase, and Jeremy Allaire, Co-Founder, Chairman and CEO of Circle, participate in the State of Crypto Summit, in New York, Thursday, June 12, 2025.
Associated Press

day, since it only requires a simple majority vote and it already cleared its biggest procedural hurdle last week in a 68-30 vote. But the bill has faced more resistance than initially expected.

There is a provision in the bill that bans members of Congress and their families from profiting off stablecoins. But that prohibition does not extend to the president and his family, even as Trump builds a crypto empire from the White House.

Last month, the Republican president hosted a private dinner at his golf club in Virginia with top investors in a Trump-branded meme coin. His family holds a significant stake in World Liberty Financial, a crypto project that launched its own stablecoin, USD1.

Trump reported earning \$57.35 million from token sales at World Liberty Financial in 2024, according to a public financial disclosure released Friday. A meme coin linked to him has generated an estimated \$320 million in fees, though the earnings are split among multiple investors.

The administration is broadly supportive of crypto's growth and its integration into the economy. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent last week said the legisla-

tion could help push the U.S. stablecoin market beyond \$2 trillion by the end of 2028.

Brian Armstrong, CEO of Coinbase the nation's largest crypto exchange and a major advocate for the bill has met with Trump and praised his early moves on crypto. This past weekend, Coinbase was among the more prominent brands that sponsored a parade in Washington commemorating the Army's 250th anniversary an event that coincided with Trump's 79th birthday.

But the crypto industry emphasizes that they view the legislative effort as bipartisan, pointing to champions on each side of the aisle. □

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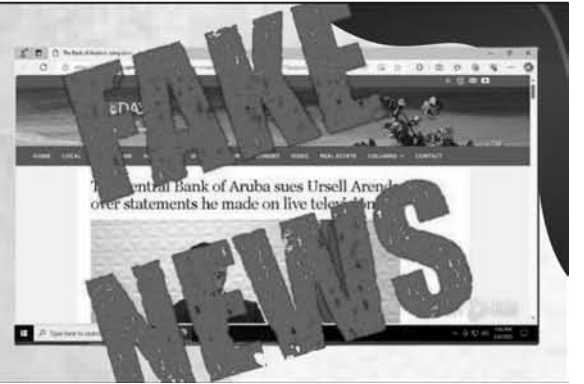
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Many lawmakers named in writings of suspected Minnesota shooter vow not to bow down

By RIO YAMAT and HALLIE GOLDEN

Associated Press

From a legislator in downtown Minneapolis to a veteran Ohio congresswoman, many lawmakers included in the suspected Minnesota gunman's writings and list of targets have vowed not to bow down. Vance Boelter, 57, was charged with federal murder and stalking, along with state charges, following a nearly two-day search that culminated in his capture in the woods near his home. He is suspected of shooting and killing former Democratic House Speaker Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark, in their home early Saturday. He is also accused of wounding Democratic Sen. John Hoffman and his wife, Yvette. The dozens of politicians included in Boelter's writings were Democrats, according to acting U.S. Attorney



Evidence photos showing the interior of Vance Boelter's vehicle are presented during a news conference at the United States Courthouse in Minneapolis, Monday, June 16, 2025.

Associated Press

Joseph Thompson. Authorities said the writings contained the names of about 45 Minnesota state and federal elected officials but have not identified them publicly. His writings also mentioned

community leaders and abortion rights advocates and had information about health care facilities, said two law enforcement officials who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they

were not authorized to discuss details of the ongoing investigation. Members of Congress from at least five other Midwest states said law enforcement told them that their names were in Boelter's

writings. They included U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin and U.S. Reps. Nikki Budzinski of Illinois, Emanuel Cleaver of Missouri, and Joyce Beatty and Marcy Kaptur of Ohio.

Authorities have not provided a motive for the shootings. Manny Atwal, Boelter's lead attorney, declined to comment, saying the office just got the case. Here's how some lawmakers are reacting to the violence:

Former Minnesota state Rep. Ruth Richardson Richardson, who is now president of Planned Parenthood of North Central States, said she learned from law enforcement that she was named as a potential target. She said risk is the "sad reality" for abortion providers and health center staff, as well as those who seek services at Planned Parenthood facilities. □

Baby delivered from brain-dead woman on life support in Georgia

ATLANTA (AP) — The baby of a woman in Georgia who was declared brain dead and has been on life support since February

was delivered early Friday morning, her mother said. April Newkirk told WXIA-TV that 31-year-old Adriana Smith's baby was born pre-

maturely by an emergency cesarean section early Friday, the Atlanta station reported Monday night. She was about six months into her pregnancy. The baby, named Chance, weighs about 1 pound and 13 ounces and is in the neonatal intensive care unit. "He's expected to be okay," Newkirk told the TV station. "He's just fighting. We just want prayers for him." Newkirk said her daughter had intense headaches more than four months ago and went to Atlanta's Northside Hospital, where she received medication and was released. The next morning, her boyfriend woke to her gasping for air and called 911. Emory

University Hospital determined she had blood clots in her brain and she was declared brain-dead. She was eight weeks pregnant, according to WXIA. Newkirk said Smith would be taken off of life support Tuesday. The Associated Press called and emailed Emory Tuesday for comment. It is unclear why Emory decided to deliver the baby. The Associated Press has also tried to contact Newkirk. Smith's family said Emory doctors told them they were not allowed to remove the devices keeping her breathing because state law bans abortion after cardiac activity can be detected generally around six weeks into preg-

nancy. Georgia Republican Attorney General Chris Carr later issued a statement saying the law did not require medical professionals to keep a woman declared brain dead on life support. "Removing life support is not an action 'with the purpose to terminate a pregnancy,'" Carr said. Newkirk said Smith loved being a nurse at Emory. She also has a 7-year-old son. Her family celebrated her 31st birthday Sunday with several advocacy groups. Newkirk did not speak at the event. "I'm her mother," Newkirk told WXIA. "I shouldn't be burying my daughter. My daughter should be burying me." □



Emory University Hospital Midtown is seen on May 15, 2025, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

UK lawmakers vote to decriminalize abortion amid concern about the prosecution of women

By **BRIAN MELLEY** and
DANICA KIRKA

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British lawmakers voted Tuesday to decriminalize abortion in England and Wales after a lawmaker argued that it was cruel to prosecute women for ending a pregnancy.

The House of Commons approved an amendment to a broader crime bill that would prevent women from being criminally punished under an antiquated law. Labour MP Tonia Antoniazzi, the Labour member of Parliament who introduced one of the amendments, said the change was needed because police have investigated more than 100 women for suspected illegal abortions over the past five years, including some who suffered natural miscarriages and stillbirths.

"This piece of legislation will only take women out of the criminal justice system because they are vulnerable and they need our help," she said.

"Just what public interest is this serving? This is not justice, it is cruelty and it has got to end."

The amendment passed 379-137. The House of Com-



A Union flag is displayed outside the Houses of Parliament, in London, Thursday, May 23, 2024.
Associated Press

mons will now need to pass the crime bill, which is expected, before it goes to the House of Lords, where it can be delayed but not blocked.

Under current law, doctors can legally carry out abortions in England, Scotland and Wales up to 24 weeks, and beyond that under special circumstances, such as when the life of the mother is in danger. Abortion in Northern Ireland was

decriminalized in 2019.

Changes in the law implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic allow women to receive abortion pills through the mail and terminate their own pregnancies at home within the first 10 weeks.

That has led to a handful of widely publicized cases in which women were prosecuted for illegally obtaining abortion pills and using them to end their own

pregnancies after 24 weeks or more.

Anti-abortion groups opposed the measures, arguing it would open the door to abortion on demand at any stage of pregnancy.

"Unborn babies will have any remaining protection stripped away, and women will be left at the mercy of abusers," said Alithea Williams, public policy manager for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Chil-

dren, which describes itself as the U.K.'s biggest pro-life campaign group.

The debate came after recent prosecutions have galvanized support to repeal parts of the 1861 Offences Against the Person Act.

In one case, a mother of three was sentenced to more than two years in prison in 2023 for medically inducing an abortion about eight months into her pregnancy. Carla Foster, 45, was released about a month later by an appeals court that reduced her sentence. Judge Victoria Sharp said that case called for "compassion, not punishment" and there was no useful purpose in jailing her. Last month, a jury acquitted Nicola Packer on a charge of unlawfully self-administering poison or a noxious thing with intent to procure a miscarriage. Packer, who took abortion medicine when she was about 26 weeks pregnant, testified that she did not know she had been pregnant more than 10 weeks. Supporters of the bill said it was a landmark reform that would keep women from going to prison for ending their pregnancy. □

Dutch government recommends children under 15 stay off TikTok and Instagram

By **MOLLY QUELL**

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — The Dutch government advised parents on Tuesday not to have children under 15 use social media platforms such as TikTok and Instagram, citing psychological and physical problems among children using them, including panic attacks, depression and difficulties sleeping.

The Ministry of Health also encouraged parents to limit how long their children spend using electronic devices, keep phones and laptops out of bedrooms, and have 20 minutes of screentime followed by

two hours of outside play.

The advisory "gives children the time to further develop digital resilience and media literacy," Vincent Karremans, caretaker deputy minister for youth and sport, said in a letter to parliament. Karremans is one of several ministers who remained on after the Dutch government collapsed earlier this month pending October elections.

Both TikTok and Instagram require users to be at least 13 years of age.

The guidelines, which are not legally binding, distinguish between "social media" sites like TikTok and Instagram and "social in-

teraction platforms" such as messaging services WhatsApp and Signal. The social media sites have "significantly more additive design features" that have a negative impact on children, the government said.

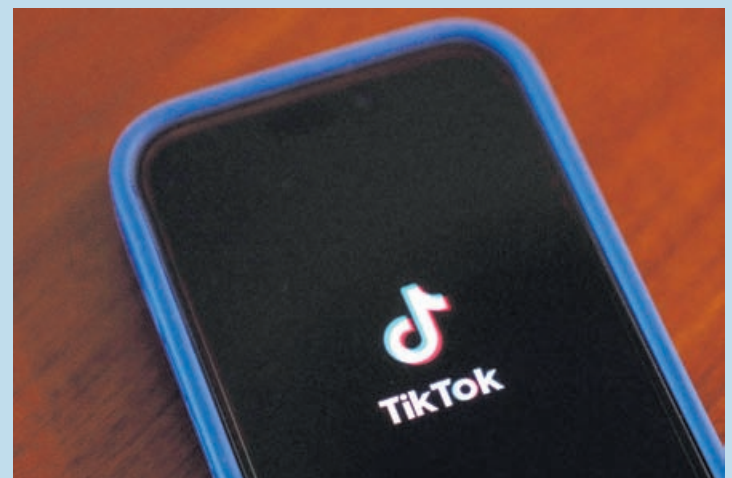
Children can use the messaging services from age 13, the year most Dutch children start secondary school, according to the recommendations.

Last year, Australia became the first country in the world to ban children under 16 from using social media. Denmark and France are considering similar legislation and Sweden issued recommenda-

tions about limiting screentime for kids last year.

A group of experts, put together at the request of the Dutch parliament,

found that intense screentime and social media usage can result in physical and psychological problems in children. □



The TikTok app logo is shown on an iPhone on Friday, Jan. 17, 2025, in Houston.

Associated Press

Argentine ex-President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner allowed to serve corruption sentence at home

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — A federal court on Tuesday granted a request by former Argentine President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner to serve a six-year prison sentence for corruption at her home in Buenos Aires.

Judges ruled that Fernández, 72, can serve time in the apartment where she lives with her daughter and her granddaughter, citing her age and security reasons. Fernández was the victim of an attempted assassination three years ago. In the ruling, obtained by The Associated Press, the court said that Fernández "must remain at the registered address, an obligation that she may not break except in exceptional situations."

The court also ordered that Fernández be placed under the watch of an electronic surveillance device to monitor her movements. Last week, Argentina's highest court upheld Fernández's sentence in a ruling that permanently banned her from public office over the corruption conviction that found she had directed state contracts to a friend while she was the first lady and presi-



Argentina's former President Cristina Fernandez waves to supporters from her home's balcony two days after Argentina's Supreme Court upheld her corruption conviction in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Thursday, June 12, 2025.

Associated Press

dent.

The ruling left Fernández, Argentina's charismatic yet deeply divisive ex-leader, sent her supporters pouring into the streets of Buenos Aires, Argentina's capital, and blocking major highways in protest.

The ruling barred Fernández from running in this fall's Buenos Aires legislative election just days after she

launched her campaign.

On Tuesday, the court dismissed prosecutors' request that Fernández serve time behind bars. Judges said that the physical integrity of the political leader "would become complex in a situation of prison confinement in coexistence with any type of prison population." Seeking to serve the sentence at home, the former

president had argued that she is more than 70 years old — an extenuating circumstance taken into account by the justice system to grant the privilege.

Fernández dominated Argentine politics for two decades and forged the country's main left-wing populist movement known as Kirchnerism after her and her husband, former

President Néstor Kirchner. She rejects the charges as politically motivated.

During Fernández's eight years in office from 2007–2015, Argentina expanded cash payments to the poor and pioneered major social assistance programs. Her governments funded unbridled state spending by printing money, bringing Argentina notoriety for major budget deficits and sky-high inflation.

Critics blamed Argentina's years of economic volatility on Fernández's policies, and outrage over successive economic crises and the country's bloated bureaucracy helped vault radical libertarian President Javier Milei to the presidency in late 2023.

Fernández was embroiled in multiple corruption scandals during her tenure. She was convicted in 2022 of corruption in a case that centered on 51 public contracts for public works awarded to companies linked to Lázaro Báez, a convicted construction magnate and friend of the presidential couple, at prices 20% above the standard rate in a project that cost the state tens of millions of dollars. □

North Korea plans to send military construction workers and deminers to Russia

By HYUNG-JIN KIM, KIM TONG-HYUNG and KATIE MARIE DAVIES
Associated Press
SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

North Korea will send thousands of military construction workers and deminers to support reconstruction work in Russia's Kursk re-

gion, a top Russian official said Tuesday, the latest sign of expanding cooperation between the two nations. North Korea has already sent thousands of troops and a vast amount of conventional weapons to back Russia's war against Ukraine. In April, Pyongyang and Moscow said that their soldiers fought together to repel a Ukrainian incursion into Russia's Kursk border region, though Ukraine has insisted it still has troops present there.

During a visit to Pyongyang, Russian Security Council Secretary Sergei Shoigu said that North Korea will dispatch 1,000 deminers as well as 5,000 military construction workers to the

Kursk region, according to Russian state news agency RIA Novosti.

"Following the expulsion of invaders from Russian soil, we've agreed to continue our constructive cooperation, with the Korean side providing assistance in the restoration of the Kursk region," Shoigu said, according to RIA Novosti. "This is a kind of brotherly aid being sent by the Korean people and their leader, Kim Jong Un, to our country."

Another Russian state news agency, Tass, said that Shoigu met with Kim. North Korea's state media hasn't reported about the meeting. RIA Novosti quoted Shoigu as saying that Moscow and Pyongyang de-

cided to erect memorials in both countries in honor of North Korean soldiers who died while fighting in the Kursk region.

North Korea and Russia have never disclosed how many North Korean troops have been sent to Russia and how many of them were killed.

But according to South Korean, U.S. and Ukraine assessments, about 15,000 North Korean soldiers have been deployed to Russia. South Korea's spy agency said in April that about 600 North Korean soldiers died on the Russia-Ukraine battlefronts.

It was Shoigu's second visit to North Korea this month. □



Russian Security Council Secretary Sergei Shoigu attends the Security Council meeting in Moscow, Russia, Oct. 10, 2024.

Associated Press

Chef's Menu
 VALID ALL DAY ON THURSDAYS
 Pick one
 CREAMY FISH SOUP
 HOUSE SALAD
 Ranch Dressing
 4 PIECE CHICKEN WINGS
 Spicy BBQ Sauce

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Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our Candelchi!

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the "Candelchi" (Squirrelfish), a common, yet shy fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba.

Let's talk about the names of fish. Do you know your fish? The Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries, known as Santa Rosa, offers this informative article that illustrate some fish and their names in Papiamentu.

Candelchi, Squirrelfish, *Holocentrus adscensionis*:

Candelchi actually refers to the entire squirrelfish family or, as some say, when we say candelchi, we mean several different species but without distinguishing them by species. In this picture, we are showing the most common one in our waters, which is called squirrelfish in English or scientifically known as *Holocentrus ad-*



scensionis.

Under candelchi, we in Aruba generally refer to all the different species of squirrelfish. They all look alike and it's really difficult to distinguish between them.

The squirrelfish family is distinguished by the following characteristics. They are heart-shaped

with pink or red hues and often show heart-shaped streaks between the scales along the body. They have hard fins and are always armed. Over at our sister island Curaçao, they are called "bari di clabo" (nail barrel) for that reason.

In our waters, there are 7 to 8 types or species present and they are sometimes caught and seen occasionally. They can be distinguished by different marks such as color on the dorsal spine or marks on the body.

In Aruba:

Candelchi are found on reefs or areas with structure in the water where they can hide. Although they prefer to hunt for food at night, they are also active during the day. They are edible and delicious when prepared dry and crispy with lime. It is particularly challenging to scale the fish, which is why it is not one of the favorites among fishermen. They often live in groups. □

Food culture in Aruba

(Oranjestad) - Like many other cultures, an important aspect of the Aruban cultural identity is our connection to food and food traditions. The local food traditions consist of a melting pot of different cultural and religious eating habits and dishes.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

The routine of breakfast, lunch and dinner on the island is one that does not completely follow a European or American routine, despite the major influences from these parts of the world on our culture and way of living. When it comes to the three important meals of the day, most of the Aruban population follows a Latin-American influenced routine.

Breakfast

Breakfast in Aruba is quite simple: a cup of coffee or tea, some bread, and sometimes an egg. Sometimes, due to the need of a quick "to-go" breakfast, you may also find many snack trucks and cafes that sell sandwiches, pastechis (meat

pie), arepas and empanadas early in the morning.

Main Meal

The main meal is typically eaten in most households around noon or in the afternoon. This can consist of meat, fish, and chicken—stewed or fried—with funchi (polenta) or rice with stewed vegetables. Often, fried or boiled plantain or pan bati (Aruban pancake) is included. Stews are a staple in Aruban cuisine and can be largely influenced by Latin-American and Latin/Afro-Caribbean Stews. Some of the more unique stews and soups from the ABC Islands* include sopi di bonchi cora (red kidney bean soup with pig tail), sopi mondongo (tripe soup), carni stoba (beef stew), comcomber stoba (West Indian gherkin stew) and much more.

Dinner Time

Dinner time can vary significantly from household to household. Unlike the U.S. or in Europe, dinner time typically does not consist

of a whole (warm) meal. Instead, the evening "meal" can typically consist of something lighter, like a sandwich, though it is not uncommon to see leftovers from the main meal reheated and eaten again. Tea and coffee are often also served with the evening snack.

(Religious) Holidays

Christmas is probably the biggest global holiday, and every culture has its own spin on what their Christmas cuisine entails. In Aruba, our Christmas cuisine is again largely based on Latin-American influences, most notably from Venezuela. Ayacas and the famous pan di ham* are two crucial holiday dishes, along with stuffed turkey, roasted glazed ham topped with pineapples, arroz con pollo (rice and chicken) and potato salad, among other items. Traditional drinks include ponche crema (Aruban eggnog), chuculati pinda (hot chocolate with peanut butter), and homemade fruit punch. Desserts include, bolo di pistachio



(pistachio cake), bolo di cashupete (cashew cake), quesillo (flan), bolo preto (dark fruit cake), drigidek (gingerbread), pan boyo (bread cake) and more.

Snacks and tasty delights

Besides meals and dishes that are eaten on the dinner table, Aruba also has a food tradition that includes snacks and other tasty delights that you may easily find around the island. These include, Saco*, basket, pastechi, kroket, deditos, Johnny cake and more. These snacks are usually sold at local snack trucks and cafes, often located on the side of the road. In the area of Tanki Leendert and Tanki flip, for example, there are many of these trucks parked on the

side of the road and often open until late at night—offering tasty and filling snacks post night-life fun.

*ABC Islands: Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao

*Pan di ham: Derived from the Venezuelan Pan de Jamon (rolled up bread with ham, raisins and olives)

*Saco: Saco literally means "bag". Saco contains fried potatoes, plantains, chicken (and ribs) and a Johnny cake, served in a paper bag. □

Source: Voeding, voedingsgewoonten en gerechten op Aruba (Nutrition, Food Traditions and Dishes on Aruba) by Biblioteca Nacional Aruba



The legend of the Kibrahacha tree

(Oranjestad)— Known locally for its bright, yellow flowers, this special tree only blooms for three to four days only. Scientifically known as *Tabebuia billbergii*, and in English as the Yellow Poui, this tree is native to the Caribbean islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao, and is considered among locals as one of the most spectacular trees on the island. But did you also know that the

beautiful yellow flowers have a story behind them?

The Kibrahacha is said to have extremely hard wood—so hard that it can break an axe. In fact, that's what its name means in Papiamentu: "kibra" (break) "hacha" (axe). The flowers bloom around April and May, but this only last for about three to four days, as the flowers start to fall off and the tree starts grow-

ing its green leaves. The Kibrahacha is especially particular, as it's the only one among its neighboring trees to start blooming first.

The legend of the Kibrahacha

Written by Hubert (Lio Booi)

One day Aterima, who lived west of the hill Sero Warawara, woke up one day to find her father sleeping in his hammock,



suffering a bout of terrible fever. Her mother was very worried, and as was the custom in the olden days, asked Aterima to go fetch Kudaweche, who was a epistemophile, to come see his father.

Aterima wasted to time and went to go fetch Kudaweche. Upon telling Kudaweche that her father was sick, he immediately accompanied Aterima back to her hut, where he encountered her father in a bad state. Not willing to waste any time, he told Aterima that the only thing that can cure her father is a home-made potion made out of the Kibrahacha flower. At the time the Kibrahacha was not yet in her blooming season, but the stubborn Kudaweche was determined to bring back Aterima's father back to health, and so off they went to the nearest Kibrahacha tree.

When they arrived at the tree, they saw that it was covered head to toe in thorns, with only a few closed flowers at the very top. Kudaweche, experienced veteran in all things Aruban flora and fauna, told Aterima to start plucking the thorns of the tree to climb to the top where the flowers are. Aterima, just as determined to save her father, didn't hesitate to start.

To her surprise, every time she plucked a thorn of the tree, a bright, yellow flower

bloomed in its place. The thorns were hard to pluck out, but Aterima continued plucking with enthusiasm and wonder at the unfolding sight before her. Not too long after she was able to fill her entire satchel with the yellow flowers. Kudaweche, satisfied to see Aterima so happy and encouraged to help her father, took her back to her hut.

Upon arriving back at the hut, Aterima's mother quickly made a tea out of the flowers and gave it to her sick husband. Miraculously, after just one sip of the tea, the father's fever left his body immediately, and he opened eyes and sprung up feeling new.

The next morning, they all visited the same Kibrahacha tree that saved the life of Aterima's father and they saw another miracle. The tree was covered again in the same bright, yellow flowers, with not a thorn in sight. And as the legend goes, from that day on, the Kibrahacha tree no longer produced any more thorns. □



Experience Aruban culture with this exciting theme night featuring a Carnival show, mixology bar, local artists and more. You can sample Aruban cuisine, including delicious BBQ options with a tropical twist. A local brass band will be performing, and you can pose with elaborately dressed Carnival dancers for a memorable photo op as well, so don't miss it.

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Snakes you may encounter on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—If you have ever or will ever go off-roading on the island, you may encounter three types of snakes that are dominant on the island. The Cascabel, Santanero and Boa differ from each other in a couple ways, and local perspective on each one may help you understand what you need to do if you ever were to encounter one during your touring session on the island.

Cascabel (*Crotalus unicolor*)

The small Cascabel or Aruba Island Rattlesnake averages 70 cm in length. The body color is often uniform gray or light brown. There may be a faint pattern of diamond shaped markings on the back. This pattern is most noticeable on younger snakes. The most distinctive feature of this snake is the rattle at the end of its tail which makes a buzzing sound when the snake is alarmed. Cascabels are shy and not aggressive, but their venom can be dangerous to humans. In fact, it's the only venomous snake native to the island. It is best to leave this snake alone. Do not attempt to catch or kill it, as it could not only be dangerous, but this snake is also endemic to the island, and its preservation has become a legal mandate for all residents



and visitors.

Cascabels hunt by waiting under bushes and fruiting trees to catch passing lizards, mice, rats, small rabbits, and an occasional bird. This is often considered to be one of the rarest rattlesnakes in the world. The range of the Cascabel is restricted to the rugged and mountainous areas of the island mostly within Arikok National Park. The Arikok National Park was designated in the early 1980s to include most of the rattlesnake's population, providing a safe refuge in which the snake can be protected and monitored. The government has also implemented outreach and education initiatives to change local perception of the snake and highlight its ecological and economic importance – it is now being promoted as a national symbol. Arikok's partnership with the Toledo zoo has safeguarded the rattlesnake ex-situ and led to a number of research projects collecting critical data on the Cascabel's abundance, life history and habitat requirement to help guide future conservation efforts.

Santanero

The slender Santanero or Aruban Cat-eyed Snake is a small fella, typically less than 50 cm long. This snake is recognizable by the large scales on the top of its head and by its pattern of dark brown bands alternating with light brown bands. The belly is plain white or cream colored without any markings. Native as well to the island, this snake is shy and not aggressive. However, it has enlarged teeth at the back of its mouth and mild venom which is not dangerous to humans, but can paralyze small lizards and frogs. Santaneros are most active at night when they search for food. During the day, they hide under rocks or leaves. They frequently climb trees and cactus. Santaneros eat toads, frogs, insects, and lizards. You may find Santaneros near dams during periods of rainy weather or crossing roads at night. This snake is found island wide. A Santanero in your garden will keep away the unwanted insects. If you encounter a Santanero around your garden, please do not harm this species.

Boa (*Boa constrictor*)

Boas are Aruba's largest snakes. The longest Boa found on the island was slightly less than 3 m. Newborn Boas average 35 cm. Boas are not venomous but are what is called constrictor snakes; they kill by wrapping themselves



around a prey and suffocating them. The most distinctive feature of a Boa is its pattern of dark brown and tan blotches which become red toward the tail. The belly is white or cream colored with numerous black spots. Boas are excellent climbers and may be found in trees and cactus. Boas also hide in the leaves under bushes waiting to catch prey that pass. Boas catch their prey with their teeth and then constrict it in their coils. The Boa's diet consists of birds, lizards, rats, mice, and rabbits. Large Boas have been known to eat small goats and chickens. When threatened, Boas will hiss loudly. Boas are a non-native species and are invasive to the island, risking the population of native lizards and birds. The first Boas were reported on the island in 1999. Since that time they have been found across the entire island in all types of habitats. If you ever encounter a Boa, please do not approach it. Instead, please call the Arikok National Park, as they are experienced in handling Boas. □



Article by Etnia Nativa

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SHIMARUCU (*Malpighia emarginata*)

Episode CCCVIII-308

The narrative presented by Etnia Nativa—meaning “Native Ethnicity”—emphasizes the importance of reclaiming the island’s cultural identity and heritage, often overshadowed by colonial history. Through this platform the organization promotes the rediscovery of native traditions and identity, encouraging a shift away from colonial legacies toward cultural self-empowerment.

In this episode, we’re raising awareness about a wonder plant—the Aruban wild cherry, locally known as shimarucu (*Malpighia emarginata*). Commercially, this fruit is also known as acerola, Barbados cherry, or West Indian cherry. It grows as a small tropical shrub or tree and is packed with fascinating nutritional and medicinal qualities.

The wild cherry plant is native to Central America and is also found in northern South America, Mexico, and the Caribbean. On Aruba, shimarucu is a familiar sight, especially along the island’s trails. After the rain, these trees are often full of ripe fruit, easily spotted on the roadsides. The fruit’s taste is quite distinct from the sweet cherries found in supermarkets—it’s tart, refreshing, and widely appreciated by locals not only for its flavor but also for its health benefits. Traditional-

ly, it’s used as a natural remedy to help fight off colds, prevent the flu, or simply enjoy as a seasonal treat.

Though small, the shimarucu cherry delivers a powerful nutritional punch, especially as a rich source of vitamin C, which plays a key role in supporting the immune system.

In general, cherries are known for their health benefits. Research shows they are high in antioxidants, potassium, and other essential nutrients that may help reduce the risk of high blood pressure and cardiovascular disease. Shimarucu is no exception. In fact, its vitamin C content is exceptionally high—up to 30–50 times that of oranges.

In addition to vitamin C, shimarucu contains polyphenols, anthocyanins, and carotenoids, all of which help fight oxidative stress, slow down aging, and potentially reduce the risk of chronic diseases. Some studies also indicate mild anti-inflammatory properties,

which could support the management of conditions like arthritis.

Because vitamin C is essential for collagen production, acerola (shimarucu) is also popular in cosmetic and skincare products. Moreover, preliminary lab studies suggest its antioxidant properties may contribute to cancer-fighting effects. While human research is still ongoing, the American Institute for Cancer Research (AICR) recognizes cherries—including our shimarucu—as a food that may help fight cancer. One key detail: the deeper red the cherry, the more acidic and antioxidant-rich it is—so don’t be afraid to make a sour face, because these fruits are seriously good for you!

Eating or drinking shimarucu can help you meet your daily vitamin C needs, making it especially useful during the cold and flu season, which on our island coincides with the rainy months—also when shimarucu is most abundant.

As for its other reported benefits—like aiding digestion, enhancing mood, boosting athletic performance, and easing diarrhea—recent studies are beginning to back up many of these traditional uses with scientific evidence.

Shimarucu can be enjoyed in many ways: in juices and smoothies, jams and syrups, as dietary supplements (in powdered or extract form), or in traditional medicine (through infusions or eaten fresh). □

If you enjoyed reading our ancestral stories and want to explore the true identity of the Aruban people, we invite you to visit Etnia Nativa—the only “living museum” of its kind in the Caribbean. Founded in 1994, Etnia Nativa has been a cultural pioneer, co-founding key institutions such as Islands National Park, the Archaeological Museum of Aruba, and several artisan foundations, among other voluntary initiatives. Etnia Nativa offers a one-of-a-kind experience that connects visitors with the spirit and soul of the island’s ancient heritage.

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Alto Vista chapel and its link to Aruba's origins

According to *Etnia Nativa*, in the 18th century most of the inhabitants of Aruba were indigenous who lived on the north coast, one of the largest communities lived in Alto Vista.

As they were very religious, they had a chief with the name of Antonio Silvester who guided them in the Christian life and it was he who decided to build a stone chapel with a roof of corn rods, which would serve as a place of prayer. In 1750 it was blessed by Father Algemesi who came from Coro-Venezuela and appointed Domingo Antonio Silvester as the island's first prosecutor in the name of the Spanish crown and Rome. In 1752 the prosecu-

tion passed into the hands of Antonio Silvester's son-in-law, Miguel Álvarez, who continued to guide the parishioners in their prayers.

According to the book, *The History of Alto Vista* by R.H. Nooyen, it is not known when Domingo Antonio Silvester came to Aruba from Venezuela. The elders believe Antonio was a Spaniard. In 1780, father Joseph Antonio de la Vegal called Bernardino Silvester, one of Antonio's sons with his wife Anna Cathalina Tromp, "neighbors and naturals of the island Aruba" and thus they became natives.

At the end of the eighteen century many inhabitants the island died as a result of the black fever epidemic and since people believed that the Alto Vista area was the most infected, they began to build their homes further south within the Noord area, so the town of Noord began to grow into a community till getting its own Church. However religious festivals continued to be celebrated at this sacred native place, with the custom of arriving in procession to Alto Vista.

Two-hundred years after the beautiful time of Alto Vista,



people can no longer see much of the town of Alto Vista from 1750. With a lot of work they found the old foundations of the Church of the Queen of the Holiest Rosary to build a new chapel on the same place. The entire surrounding area was empty and desolated, making it hard to imagine that Alto Vista was a town at all. A hundred years later, people can see the remains of around twenty houses, some made of stone and others of clay. Nowadays, only around six of these houses remain.

South of the chapel in the yard two graves can be observed, there was the cemetery which father Pablo de Algemesi blessed. It is not certain, but it is believed that the two graves belong to Antonio Silvester and Miguel Alvares, according to Nooyen. About 50 meters near the chapel there are still the markings of an old house, where Antonio and Bernardino Silvester would have lived. About 200 meters from the chapel there is a water tank which the lo-

cals call Tanki Cacique. In the past this tank was closed. But mostly water was brought out from the Poz di Noord, a well dug in the sand.

The chapel can be viewed from basically any point in the north side, even from Paradera and Sero Plat. All the historical remains around the chapel provide us with an idea on how the old people of Alto Vista used to live. Don't miss the opportunity to visit a place of historical significance with a window to Aruba's past. □



(Oranjestad)—The cah'i orgel music box is an important and unique instrument that is used on the ABC islands in the Dutch Caribbean. This instrument is a staple in our folklore music, and its significance in the traditions of Aruba has and

Ever heard of the cah'i orgel? A key instrument in Aruban folklore music

continues to bring together the old and young.

The origin of the cah'i orgel is said to have come from Europe around 150 years ago. A cross breed between the barrel piano and the organ, the most popular stories said that the instrument came from either England or Germany, but made its way to Italy down to Venezuela, where in 1881, Mr. Horatio Sprock (1866-1949) from Curacao was first introduced to it. After that, Sprock made his own cah'i orgel "Josefina", and successfully debuted it on the streets of Barquisimeto. Back in Curacao, he started his own cah'i orgel business along with his brother Luis. In Aruba, it is said that the cah'i orgel was introduced by Rufo Wever, who later in his career became one of the composers for the Aruban national anthem.

Rufo Wever was a young musician in 1937 when he established his own cah'i orgel business on the island. Before that he experimented with his uncle's cah'i orgel, and he over the years he learned to build and repair the instrument. In fact, he was incredibly skilled in this, and he

was one of the few to have recognized from the start that the cah'i orgel is an instrument that needs preserving.

As mentioned, the cah'i orgel is a music box. made from mahogany wood, it contains a cylinder with a maximum of eight music pieces. By rotating the lever on the front side of the box, the cah'i orgel produces music similar to that of a piano, and is accompanied often by someone else playing the "wiri", a percussion instrument made out of steel and reminiscent to the Spanish guiro. Back then, you would often also find someone playing the triangle alongside the cah'i orgel and wiri. In Aruba, the cah'i orgel and wiri is used for traditional music genres, such as the Aruban waltz, tumba, mazurka and more.

Fun fact: another name for the cah'i orgel is the "tingilingi box." □

Source: "E Cilinder Magico entre Aruba y Curaçao" by Marilyn Alcalá-Wallé, Herta Parabirsing-Balentina and Nidia Rosaria-Wallé.

CROSSWORD

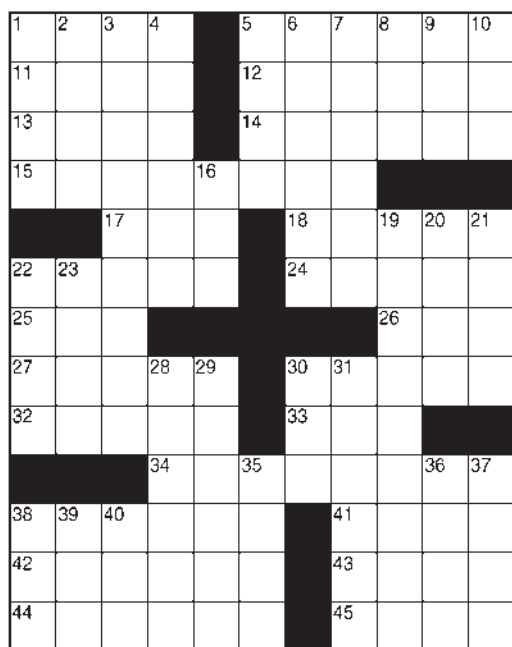
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 45 Dis- patched
1 Dull pain
5 Loving touch
11 Bird on a Canadian dollar
12 Spotted cat
13 — mater
14 Catcher's catch
15 Goblets, e.g.
17 Stew sphere
18 Trade agreement of 1994
22 School areas
24 Mixes
25 Hagen of acting
26 Agent, for short
27 Suggested
30 Stands
32 Met offering
33 Drama division
34 First grade subject
38 Bar order
41 Gushing review
42 Warring groups
43 Exploits
44 Leave

DOWN

- 1 Woeful cry
2 Future stallion
3 Diamond corner
4 Tooth layer
5 Nightclub of song
6 Squirrel's stash
7 Iterate
8 Pole worker
9 Musical note
10 Pig's place
16 Used to be
19 Diamond corner
20 Grove growth
21 Pharaoh symbols
22 Designer Boss
23 Resting on
28 Mecca setting
29 More statue
30 Cheering cry
31 Doomed flier
35 Gnat, e.g.
36 Smooth
37 Evaluate
38 Pop
39 Iron source
40 Diamond worker



6-22

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-22

CRYPTOQUOTE

YNN BARJQ-OWD JSAS RQTS
TEXNGASQ ... IOF RQNM CSJ RC
FESZ ASZSZISA XF. — "FES
NXFFNS WAXQTS," IM YQFRXQS
GS DYXQF-SLOWSAM

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BASSETT

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			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
SUN	01	SILVER SHADOW FREEWINDS - Dept.	08.00 ****	23.00 22.30	C E	1 -
WED	04	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	C	1
TUE	10	CARNIVAL HORIZON CARNIVAL MARDI GRAS	09.00 13.00	23.00 23.00	C I	1 1
TUE	17	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL VISTA	07.00 13.00	16.00 23.00	B C	1 1
WED	18	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS OASIS OF THE SEAS	08.00 08.00 07.00	22.00 23.00 16.00	C B I	1 1 1
TUE	24	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
FRI	27	SEVEN SEAS MARINER	10.00	21.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water

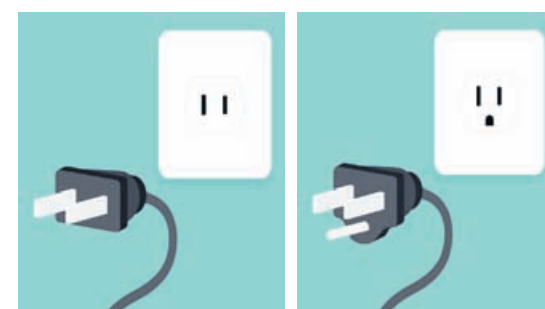
The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



The world's most trafficked mammal is the pangolin. US officials say it's an endangered species

By ALEXA ST. JOHN
Associated Press

U.S. officials proposed Monday to protect the pangolin, a small, nocturnal mammal covered in scales, under the Endangered Species Act.

The pangolin is "the most trafficked mammal in the world" in large part for its scales, used in traditional Chinese medicine, and meat, according to the World Wildlife Fund.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is looking to add protections for four species of the pangolin native to Asia including the Chinese, Indian, Sunda and Philippine pangolin and three species native to Africa, including the white-bellied, black-bellied and giant pangolin. Seven species are in danger of extinction, according to the Center for Biological Diversity.

An eighth species from Africa, the Temminck's ground pangolin, is already protected by the law. Scientists also say two more species of the mammal may exist.

The protections were signed into law in 1973 with bipartisan support and are key for preserving global biodiversity and keeping iconic types of plants and animals, such as the bald eagle, from dying out. The Endangered Species Act protects over 2,000 U.S. and foreign species.

Conservation and environmental groups say habitat loss from climate change is just one reason the act is especially critical today.

The endangerment listing, once finalized, would help strengthen trade and import restrictions of pangolin parts in the U.S., except in the case of scientific or other conservation purposes, according to the Center. □

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Why target-date funds are great IRA investments

Jason Kephart and Susan Dziubinski of Morningstar
Why do target-date funds make ideal IRA investments?

Here to discuss this topic is Jason Kephart, a senior principal with Morningstar's manager research team. The interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Q: Target-date funds tend to be great investments for an IRA, because if investors choose the target-date fund that fits their time horizon, then that IRA effortlessly fits in with the rest of a portfolio. Delve into that.

A: Target-date funds are a great set-it-and-forget-it for investors who don't want to spend a lot of time thinking about: How much of my portfolio should be in stocks versus bonds? What funds should I pick to fill those buckets? The target date takes all that off the hands of investors.

The other beauty is regular rebalancing, so your portfolio doesn't get out of whack. As you age and get closer to retirement, your portfolio should be getting a little bit more conservative because you don't want to have a lot of risk at retirement, but you do want to have a lot of risk when you're young and have a huge time horizon in front of you.



This Oct. 24, 2016 file photo shows dollar bills in New York.

This takes care of all that for you, so it's a great option for anyone who doesn't want to spend a lot of time managing their investments.

Q: Vanguard was in the headlines lately after making some sizable distributions from some of its target-date funds. Although Vanguard's distributions may have been big, target-date funds, in general, aren't great investments for taxable accounts. Talk about why.

A: They're predominantly

designed for 401(k) plans, which is mostly where the assets are. And tax-advantaged accounts, like an IRA, aren't really thinking about taxes. So the bond portfolio, which tends to be taxable bonds, that income is taxed at an ordinary rate.

Also, we talked about rebalancing, which is when you sell your winners and buy your losers. Anytime you're selling your winners, that's going to trigger a taxable event.

In a 401(k) or an IRA, you

don't have to worry about those. In a taxable account, it could be kind of a headache.

Q: A lot of investors already have a relationship with a brokerage or an asset manager. Can they feel comfortable going with whomever they already have that relationship with? Or does it pay to shop around?

A: It always pays to look at your options, but I would caution that a lot of brokerages will take steps to steer you toward their own

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offerings. And that may mean additional fees may be charged if you pick a different target-date fund, which could kind of kill the value proposition.

What we've seen with target-date funds is that the return differences can be narrow, so additional fees could make a significant difference.

Q: What are some key questions that investors should be asking before they invest in a target-date fund?

A: You want to know what the glide path looks like and whether it fits your risk tolerance at different stages in life, which could be difficult to know early on.

A 25-year-old probably isn't going to have a good sense of what their risk tolerance is going to look like at 60, but the shape of the glide path really does matter.

You also want to understand the underlying funds. Are they index funds, actively managed funds, or a combo of both? Maybe you have a preference.

The other thing you want to think about is fees. Fees matter, particularly in an IRA where you may not have the benefit of getting the cheapest share class like you would through a company 401(k). □

Kraft Heinz pulling artificial dyes from its U.S. products in 2027

By **MICHELLE CHAPMAN**
AP Business Writer

Kraft Heinz will be pulling artificial dyes from its U.S. products starting in 2027 and will no longer roll out new products with the

dyes.

The move comes nearly two months after U.S. health officials said that they would urge foodmakers to phase out petroleum-based artificial colors in the nation's

food supply.

Kraft Heinz said Tuesday that almost 90% of its U.S. products already don't contain food, drug & cosmetic colors, but that the products that do still use the dyes will have them removed by the end of 2027. FD&C colors are synthetic additives that are approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use in food, drugs and cosmetics.

Kraft Heinz said that many of its U.S. products that still use the FD&C colors are in its beverage and desserts categories, including certain products sold under brands including Crystal Light, Kool Aid, Jell-O and Jet Puffed.

The company said that it

will instead use natural colors for the products.

"The vast majority of our products use natural or no colors, and we've been on a journey to reduce our use of FD&C colors across the remainder of our portfolio," Pedro Navio, North America President at Kraft Heinz, said in a statement.

Kraft Heinz stripped artificial colors, flavors and preservatives from its macaroni and cheese in 2016 and said it has never used artificial dyes in its ketchup.

The company plans to work with licensees of its brands to encourage them to remove the dyes.

In April Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Marty Makary said at a news conference that the

agency would take steps to eliminate the synthetic dyes by the end of 2026, largely by relying on voluntary efforts from the food industry. Health advocates have long called for the removal of artificial dyes from foods, citing mixed studies indicating they can cause neurobehavioral problems, including hyperactivity and attention issues, in some children. The FDA has maintained that the approved dyes are safe and that "the totality of scientific evidence shows that most children have no adverse effects when consuming foods containing color additives." The FDA currently allows 36 food color additives, including eight synthetic dyes. □



The H.J. Heinz Co. headquarters is seen on Pittsburgh's northside on Friday, Nov. 9, 2001.

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The rest that's built into the NBA Finals can be a good thing, especially now

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Given the way Indiana guard Tyrese Haliburton was limping on his way out of the postgame news conference after Game 5 of the NBA Finals, it's safe to assume he's a fan of the schedule right about now. Put simply, he could use a couple of days off at least. Haliburton has a lower leg injury nobody's saying exactly what it is, whether it's ankle or calf or something else and it seems to be the sort that if this were a back-to-back situation in December, he'd be missing at least one game. But these are the finals, this is June, there no back-to-backs in the playoffs and when the league gets to the last series two-day breaks between games aren't uncommon. Amen to that, the Pacers are probably saying right about now. "The Finals, the NBA Finals, is one of the great stages in



Indiana Pacers guard Tyrese Haliburton (0) drives past Oklahoma City Thunder forward Chet Holmgren (7) during the second half of Game 5 of the NBA Finals basketball series, Monday, June 16, 2025, in Oklahoma City.

all of sports," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said. "And so, it shouldn't happen quickly and abruptly. It should happen at the right pace and the right tempo, and the space in between games does help player health.

That's a very important aspect of it." There was a one-day gap between games in this year's finals just once, separating Games 3 and 4 in Indianapolis. Everything else has seen a two-day

gap, as will be the case going into Game 6 at Indy on Thursday night. And if the Pacers win to force a Game 7 back in Oklahoma City, that'll be preceded by another two days off going into an ultimate game

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on Sunday night. It should be noted that the Thunder don't mind the schedule being drawn out, either.

"We recover," Oklahoma City coach Mark Daigneault said. "The finals are great because you get extra time in between the games. I think that's huge in terms of rest and recovery at this time of the year. I think it's good for the product. I think it's a good thing and by the time the ball goes up in the air, everybody is going to be ready to play and everybody is going to be excited."

Even those who aren't dealing with an injury seem to be welcoming the two-day gaps between finals games.

"It's a lot of games. It's tiring, for sure," Thunder star and league MVP Shai Gilgeous-Alexander said. "But every game is tiring. When you're giving your all, every possession, you're going to be tired. I don't think I'm the only one out there that is tired." □

Sabalenka apologizes to Gauff for post-match comments after French Open


BERLIN (AP) — Aryna Sabalenka says she has written to Coco Gauff to apologize for the "unprofessional" comments she made following her loss to her American rival in the final of the French Open. Speaking to Eurosport Germany, the top-ranked Sabalenka said her remarks after her 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-4 loss to Gauff at Roland-Garros this month were a mistake. In her post-match press conference in Paris, Sabalenka had suggested that the result was more due to her own errors than to Gauff's performance. "That was just completely unprofessional of me," Sabalenka said. "I let my emotions get the better of me. I absolutely regret what I said back then. You know, we all make mistakes. I'm just a human being who's still learning in

life. I think we all have those days when we lose control. But what I also want to say is that I wrote to Coco afterward not immediately, but recently." Sabalenka hit 37 winners but finished the final with 70 unforced errors compared to Gauff's 30. She said she wrote to Gauff to apologize and "make sure she knew she absolutely deserved to win the tournament and that I respect her." "I never intended to attack her," Sabalenka added. "I was super emotional and not very smart at that press conference. I'm not necessarily grateful for what I did. It took me a while to go back and think about it, to approach it with open eyes, and to understand. I realized a lot about myself." □



Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus yells in frustration during the final match of the French Tennis Open against Coco Gauff of the U.S. at the Roland-Garros stadium in Paris, Saturday, June 7, 2025.


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Jay Monahan to leave next year as PGA Tour turns to NFL exec Brian Rolapp for new leadership

By **DOUG FERGUSON**

AP Golf Writer

CROMWELL, Conn. (AP) —

Jay Monahan is leaving the PGA Tour next year after a decade that ends with a sport fractured by the Saudi riches of LIV Golf. He turns it over to top NFL executive Brian Rolapp in a new role as CEO that Rolapp sees as rife with commercial growth.

Rolapp, the chief media and business officer for the NFL and seen as a potential successor to a Commissioner Roger Goodell, was introduced Tuesday as CEO, a position that had never existed in the tour's six decades of existence.

"Players are central to everything we do, and making sure they are supported and heard will be a top priority," Rolapp said in an open letter. "At the same time, we are going to keep challenging ourselves to grow the game in new ways, reach new fans, and create a tour that reflects the future of sports and entertainment."

Rolapp met with the players for an hour on Tuesday morning ahead of the Travelers Championship, offering broad views more geared toward what the tour has in its favor before identifying any solutions to patch the game back together.

"Everything that works in the football world may not work in the golf world," Rolapp said. "When it comes to that situation particularly, I think the fans have been pretty clear. They want to see the best golfers competing against each other. I agree with that. When it comes to the situation with LIV, I think that's a complex situation that's probably something I should learn



From left, Adam Scott, PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan, incoming CEO Brian Rolapp, Tiger Woods at the Travelers Championship in Cromwell, Connecticut, Tuesday, June 17, 2025.

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more about before I speak. "But I will say my focus is on growing the tour, making it better, and really moving on from the position of strength that it has."

Monahan announced last December the search for a CEO. Still unclear was his role until the announcement of Rolapp on Tuesday. Monahan said he will shift his day-to-day responsibilities to Rolapp and focus more on his position on the PGA Tour board, along with the commercial PGA Tour Enterprises board, through the end of his contract in 2026.

"A year ago, I informed our boards that upon completing a decade as commissioner, I would step down from my role at the end of 2026," Monahan said.

Tiger Woods flew to Connecticut for the player meeting and introduction of Rolapp. He is out for the year after rupturing his

Achilles tendon, though he was walking without a boot.

Woods and Adam Scott were the two players on the board who were part of the search committee, joined by Atlanta Falcons owner Arthur Blank, PGA Tour board chairman Joe Gorder and Sam Kennedy from Strategic Sports Group.

Lucas Glover said Rolapp told players he had a lot to learn and didn't have all the answers being new to the job, which will start sometime this summer.

"He seems to be all in on growing the game, and he's pretty adamant about going forward," Glover said.

As for Monahan leaving, Glover said: "Whatever they think. I've got to get my gripes behind and go forward. I think we all learned it's time for that." Rolapp was introduced

two days after the U.S. Open, one of four times a year all the best players are together.

Monahan, who guided all of golf through the COVID-19 pandemic, was criticized for not taking a meeting with the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia when it wanted to invest in golf with a team component.

LIV Golf began in June 2022 and over the next two years lured away Bryson DeChambeau and Brooks Koepka, Jon Rahm and Dustin Johnson, among others.

Monahan and two board members, Jimmy Dunne and Ed Herlihy, then secretly met with PIF leadership and reached an agreement in late May 2023 geared toward ending the antitrust lawsuits and bringing golf back together.

The secrecy stunned players and infuriated most of

them who turned down the Saudi money to stay loyal to the tour.

The framework agreement was never finalized. The PGA Tour and PIF are still negotiating on an investment deal, and not even President Donald Trump could smooth the way after a meeting at the White House in February.

"Brian is the perfect choice for the next chapter of the PGA Tour," Monahan said. "His arrival strengthens our leadership team and reflects our shared commitment to the tour's continued evolution. With Brian's expertise and vision, and the trust we've established with our players and fans, I'm more confident than ever in the future we're building."

The tour in January 2024 brought in Strategic Sports Group, a consortium of sports owners led by Fenway Sports Group, and its \$1.5 billion investment that could double. The tour also introduced a first-of-its-kind player equity program.

Rolapp said having the back of SSG, which was deeply involved in the CEO search, was appealing for commercial growth.

"I think the investment of capital and the pledge of future capital has been one of the things that have strengthened the tour. I think it's a huge opportunity," Rolapp said. "Where we deploy that capital, I have ideas. I don't think I want to share them now, but that's going to be part of the job to get in there and talk about it."

It will be a big change for Rolapp, going from two decades at a league of 32 team owners to a tour with nearly 200 players who operate independently. □